

Saturday of the First Week of Lent

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As we enter Lent, let us focus on the meaning of the season: repentance, reflection, sacrifice, and, ultimately, rejoicing. This past year, many of us experienced hardship and uncertainty, many of us witnessed loss and suffering, many grew anxious and doubtful. Consequently, many of us questioned our devotion and commitment as we searched for answers. In these unusual and unprecedented times, we seek strength and clarity, we seek confidence and reassurance, we seek knowledge and meaning. Through our continued faith and by the grace of God, many of us had the opportunity for growth...in our thoughts, in our relationships, in our families and friendships, in our understanding and empathy, and in our spirituality. Many were fortunate to find common ground with our neighbors, many were able to gain perspective, and to learn to appreciate what we have, to empathize with the less fortunate and to understand that, even in the most difficult times, God does not abandon us. In fact, it is in the most difficult times that our bond with God is strengthened through our acceptance of His word.

We are reminded of the covenant between God and His people. We are obligated to God, to obey his word and commands, as doing so fortifies our spiritual bond. We realize, through our faith, that we are blessed in many ways. Even though our struggles and disappointments, we know that we will achieve happiness by being committed to our faith, our families, and our responsibilities. As people of faith, we are reminded of the message, and understand that although the messenger may change, the lesson is consistent with God's word. Through our faith, even in the most difficult times, we can reflect upon and renew our relationship with God. Through His guidance and by obeying His Word, we can grow in spirit and rejoice in his generosity.